through EFT are some of the other steps which have already been taken to reduce transaction costs.

Trade relations with China, USA and Russia

†*119. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to boost trade relations between India-China, India-USA and India-Russia;

(b) if so, for which sectors of trade Government have chalked out a strategy; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Trade relations with China, USA and Russia

(b) India-China: A Joint Task Force has been appointed to study the feasibility of and the benefits that may be derived from an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement.

India-USA: A number of initiatives have been taken to promote and accelerate trade and investment. These include India-US Trade Policy Forum, a High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) to promote high technology cooperation in IT, Working Group on Information & Communications Technology (ICT), India-US Economic Dialogue, India-US CEO's Forum, India-US Economic and Financial Forum, India-US Energy Dialogue and India-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture.

India-Russia: Russia has been included as a Focus Country in the ongoing Focus CIS Programme aimed at enhancing India's

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

trade with countries of the CIS Region. A Joint Study Group (JSG) has been constituted to prepare a programme on significant increase of mutual trade turnover between India & Russia.

(c) Does not arise.

Technological overhaul of anti-terror machinery

*120. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended to Government a total technological overhaul of the anti-terror machinery, and streamlining of the intelligence network, to make the campaign against terrorists a big success;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government are planning to associate civil society in drive against such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Administrative Reforms Commission has submitted its Third Report titled "Crisis Management-from Despair to Hope" which contains recommendations with regard to natural and man-made disasters such as earthquakes, industrial accidents, etc. As per available inputs, the crisis situations caused by hostile elements like terrorists and extremists involving taking of hostages, hijacking of aircrafts or severely disrupting public order and administration are expected to be dealt with by the Commission in a separate report on 'Public Order'.

(c) The Government acknowledges the civil society to be an important partner in fight against terrorism. The States have been taking steps to encourage community policing to elicit people's participation in prevention of crimes and maintenance of public order. Help of local community members is also taken by the District Administation to maintain peace and tranquility and restore public order in crisis situations.